Foreign maojrity participation in HMT

1402. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to allow foreign majority participation in the Hindustan Machine Tools;

(b) if so, what is the contemplated revised structure of this company; and

(c) what is the accumulated loss so far suffered by the HMT alongwith the profit and losses incurred by it during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Government has approved, in principle, the conversion of the individual business groups of HMT Limited into joint venture companies with international partners who may have majority equity share holding if it is in HMT's interest. No specific proposals have been received so far.

(c) The net profit made by HMT during the last three years is as follows :—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Net Profit
1990-91	14.15
1991-92	26.08
1992-93	2.72

There is no accumulated loss as on 31 -3-1993. Industrially backward districts in Bihar

1403. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Wil1 the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided that industrially backward areas shall be
determined in terms of areas smaller than the States, preferably the districts ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have identified as to how many districts in Bihar are industrially backward;

(d) what are the details of such districts; and

(e) what special schemes have been prepared by Government to remove their backwardness ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA *SAHI)* : (a) and (b) : There is at present no proposal to revise the list of backward districts/areas.

(c) and (d)Eighteen districts.'namely, Bhagalpur, Champaran, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur' Palamau, Purnea, Saharsa, Santhal Parganas Saran, Nalanda, Aurangabad, Newadah Gaya' Bhojpur, Begusarai, Monghyr, Khagaria and Madhepur.

(e) The Government, in 1988, announced a Growth Centre Scheme under which some gro with centres would be developed throughout the country during the 8th Plan period. Each growth centre would be provided basic infra structural facilities like water, power, telecom banians etc so as to attract industries to these Under the Scheme,Bihar been allotted 6 growth centres out of which 5 fall in Centrally declared backward districts.

Crisis in Newsprint industry

1404. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESH ESSE. PRIME MINISTER

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor-

(0 whether it is a fact that due to the due imports of forcgn newsprint, the unsold stock portam of the indigenous industry has crossed the normal limit; and

(d) if so what.measures are being taken to bad out this industry from the preset crisis

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHAN SAHI):(a)and(b)NewSS and Indian Newsprint Manufectures Asso cation have *interalia* represented to the Go vemmentthatnewspaperunits are top the

the EXIM Policy. Consequently, the news paper umts are not lifting the required quantily of newsprint from the indigenous mills which has resulted in accumulation of unsold stocks with the indigenous mills.

(c) The quantity of stock lying as onl5-2-1994 with various public sector newsprint mills is reported to beabout 32,000 MT.

(d) Suitable steps are taken by the Govern ment as and when required to help the indi. genous industry.